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TWO HUNDRED PERSONS DEAD

Powder Houses at Frankfort, Germany, Are Blown to Pieces.

TROOPS CALLED OUT

Sparks Shot to Neighboring Villages and Set Fire to Many Houses—Dead Are Being Removed by Lamplight.

FIRE STILL BURNING FURIOUSLY

All Railroad Traffic Stopped Except Trains Carrying the Injured—Explosion Beats All Former Records—Neighboring Fire Brigades Hurrying to the Scene.

Frankfort, April 25.—One of the most disastrous explosions on record occurred this afternoon at the Electro Chemical works near Frankfort, where ammonium nitrate was stored. Most of the buildings were blown to pieces, and it was estimated that it was a great distance from Frankfort and Mayence. The factory immediately became a mass of flames and a northeast wind carried the sparks to neighboring villages where several houses were also set on fire. The explosion was so powerful that it was estimated that about one hundred tons of ammonium powder were in the room where the explosion occurred.

Troops were immediately ordered to Frankfort to prevent the fire spreading to the large water reservoirs nearby. Fire brigades from every place in the neighborhood hurried to the scene, but on account of the dangerous nature of the fire and the fear of a renewal of the explosion the greatest difficulty was experienced in stopping the progress of the flames. Only after five hours of strenuous effort was the fire brought under control and the danger of a renewal of the explosion removed.

The fire continued to burn although the great amount of the ammonium nitrate department and the houses are trying to prevent its spread to the buildings outside of the factory. Hospitals have been improvised in the vicinity. The flames apparently originated by the blowing up of rats of chemicals in the explosive department of the works at the Electro Chemical works. The explosion was so powerful that it was estimated that about one hundred tons of ammonium powder were in the room where the explosion occurred.

When a second explosion took place, the flames of the mass of burning chemicals made it impossible to stay in the vicinity. The flames were so powerful that they were ordered to leave their villages which they did, fleeing to Frankfort.

The last explosion occurred at 7:30 p. m. and when it was ascertained that no further danger was anticipated, the inhabitants were allowed to return to their homes.

All the fire was still burning in the center and the work of extricating the bodies from the debris was being carried on by torchlight, as light had been obtained.

All railway traffic with Frankfort was stopped during the day, except for trains carrying the injured, but it has since been resumed.

Four weeks for dressing wounds of the injured have been devoted. The catastrophe originated in a small fire which ignited several receptacles of nitrate acid, causing a terrific explosion. The houses adjacent to the factory were blown to pieces and partly demolished by the violence of the explosion. It is still supposed to be definitely how numerous are the victims.

PONY IS IDENTIFIED

Callahan and Crowe thought him from Daniel Harris.

Omaha, Neb., April 25.—The pony with the silver-gray mane and tail, which was the only one of the kind in the country, was identified this afternoon in connecting with Callahan with the crime. Daniel Harris of North Omaha recognized the little beast as one he had seen in the streets of Omaha last October. The man had called at his home in a buggy and one of them he recognized James Callahan. The other he said resembled the photograph of Pat Crowe.

The same identification pony was shown by Charles Lee, a South Omaha blacksmith, yesterday afternoon.

The man who brought the animal for the service, Lee says, was Pat Crowe. The pony had a star in his forehead and two white feet, which enabled the blacksmith to be positive of its identity. A further complicity of interest between Callahan and Crowe was disclosed by Mrs. Anna Wright, living across the street from the Callahan boarding house. She says she frequently saw him in company with a man called James Harris. She was positive of her identification of Pat Crowe's picture as that of Callahan's unknown partner. Another piece of evidence which occupied the court's attention was the red lantern by which Mr. Callahan was guided to the rendezvous with the gold. An effort was made to trace its ownership to the accused.

Omaha, Neb., April 25.—In the trial of James Callahan for the kidnaping of Edward Galtney at the opening of court this morning, Judge Galtney told that the light man's return to the prison, when about 1 o'clock on the night of the delivery of the money, he summoned the dark man to come down stairs, where they remained about half an hour. At the end of that time the light man came up stairs and told the prisoner they were going to take his home. Edward told of

age to both countries. Moreover, it seems to me, possible to adjust tariff concessions on both sides, so that there will be no disadvantage to special lines of industry or production, the exchange being encouraged more particularly on those of goods which one country produces and which the other does not produce. There are great opportunities for an increased use in France of the American product of iron. It is quite certain, too, that if the United States takes the initiative in making concessions France will reciprocate in the fullest measure. The prevailing sentiment in France is favorable to a protective policy, although personally I am rather inclined to free trade. But in any event, I am quite sure that some middle ground can be secured to the advantage of both countries. I am glad to say that there is the most cordial sentiment throughout France toward the United States. This is traditional with us, but there never has been a time when the feeling was more genuine than it is at present."

M. Siegfried was asked as to the recent reports that some of the European powers might unite in commercial alliance against the United States. He said: "That might come about," said he, "and it is an additional reason why it is desirable to have the two republics enter into close commercial relations."

M. Siegfried also expressed an interest in this country to build the merchant marine by the payment of subsidies. He says that France already has a subsidy system which assisted to a considerable extent in meeting the commercial supremacy of Great Britain on the sea. He is entirely in favor of the encouragement in the United States would bring about similar results in the development of American merchant shipping. He will remain in Washington until tomorrow, when he starts on an extensive trip through the United States to the western part of the country, going thence to Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and many other points, returning by way of Canada to Boston and commercial centers in New England.

CUBANS SEE M'KINLEY

President Tells Them of His Interest in Their Cause.

Washington, April 25.—The Cuban delegation from the convention framing a constitution for the new island republic saw President McKinley today, once in the early part of the day, when there were expressions of friendship and again at night when the members of the delegation were the guests of honor at a state dinner at the White House.

The president in the forenoon interview at the White House saying to the delegation that he would confer with the secretary who would act as his representative in conference with the Cuban delegation. The delegation and Secretary Root were dropped for some hours in the afternoon in a discussion of the relations of the island to the United States. Secrecy was observed as to the conference, the statements being made that after results were reached the president's conclusions might be made public.

Matters of importance were not touched upon in the interview between the president and the delegation, the conference being almost wholly informal.

Senator Zapolote in his address to the president spoke of the desire of the Cubans to have the closest possible relations with the United States. He said that the United States soldiers and Cubans had fought side by side and driven Spain from the island and the ties between the two countries were bound to be strong. He said that the Cubans were always ready to do their share in the common cause and that they usually exist in peace and friendship with the United States.

In response the president expressed his pleasure at meeting the delegation and desired through them to extend his kindest wishes to the people of the island. He said that his interest in Cuba always had been great and he made reference to messages he had sent to congress concerning the island. He said that the Cuban people would be the subject of his most earnest consideration. He congratulated the members of the delegation upon being members of the Cuban constitutional convention. He said it was a high honor to have the opportunity to frame a government for a republic. Concerning the object of the delegation's visit the president said he would confer with the secretary of war, and the secretary, having an intimate knowledge of the situation, would confer with the delegation.

NEW GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Plan of Operations Was Announced Yesterday.

Washington, April 25.—The plan of operations of the geological survey for the geological survey for the next fiscal year was announced today. Numerous parties are to be sent to all sections of the country to engage in a geological, topographical and other lines of survey work. An important feature will be an investigation, in co-operation with the coast and geodetic survey, of marked parts of the northwest boundary between the United States and Canada. The line will be run and temporarily marked by iron posts in certain localities. It is planned to make a reconnaissance of the whole line from the summit of the Rocky mountains westward. Geologist Bailey Willis, with a party will make a reconnaissance of a strip ten to fifteen miles wide along the south side of the boundary line in Idaho and Montana to determine its geological features and the condition of the boundary monuments. Other geologists will make surveys from the Colorado line westward to the Pacific coast.

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S SPEECH

Newspapers Now Have Their Say About It.

Berlin, April 25.—The Berlin papers with the exception of the semi-official organs and the conservative journals, comment for the most part in favorable terms upon Emperor William's speech yesterday at the Kommerz which welcomed the matriculation of Crown Prince Frederick William at the University of Bonn. Nearly all dwell upon his Anglophile utterances and also his references to Germany as a peace-loving nation, which the National Zeitung called the "Chief German view."

A number of the liberal papers like the Berliner Tageblatt and the Volksrecht point out the "ambiguities" of the Emperor's speech and ability toward republicanism and trade in the present and pending Agrarian legislation, which the Volksrecht Zeitung, which emphasizes the Emperor's references to nationalism in modern Germany, says: "The Emperor did not mean our ally, Austria-Hungary, which is a mixture of nationalities, nor Switzerland, nor the United States. Moreover, portions of Germany herself contain Polish, French, Danish and Slav fragments. Therefore Germany is not exclusively German, neither does Germany contain all the Germans, for there are Germans in Austria and Russia as well as in other countries."

Several papers call attention to the unusual religious and melancholy strain pervading the end of the speech. The Berliner Post, which praises its patriotic ring, says that the Emperor's German will heed the Emperor's warnings, as he, on this occasion as often before, spoke for "those things that move momentarily, the German soul."

The Preussische Zeitung suggests that the Bonn speech directly contradicts another speech of the Emperor's, one delivered at Saalburg, near Hamburg where he proclaimed his longing that Germany, like Rome, might girdle the earth. Among the extraordinary precautions taken by the police at Bonn was the temporary incarceration of a number of German students, suspected of anarchistic tendencies.

THOUSANDS OF MEN IDLE

Ohio River Floods Have Done Much Damage.

MILLION DOLLAR LOSS

Estimated in Southern Part of West Virginia.

3,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS

Flood Now at a Standstill and End Is Near.

Cincinnati, O., April 25.—The end of the flood is in sight here tonight. At 6 o'clock the stage was 561 feet and rising less than one-half inch per hour. The rise from 4 a. m. to 5 p. m. was only seven inches, and at short intervals during the day it was stationary. The river at 5 o'clock tonight was rising slowly for fifty miles above Cincinnati. It was stationary for 100 miles below that point, and falling for 200 miles below Pittsburg. It will be some time before the water will be stationary here and for some time after the water recedes. Similar action was taken in Newport and Dayton, Ky., today where the conditions are still worse in inundated districts. The Newport track is submerged from one to three feet and greater crowds are attracted than usual owing to the sight of the horse running in water. The National League baseball park, where a game was played by the Cincinnati and Chicago teams today, is completely flooded tonight. All the railroads are in trouble today in handling freight and some abandoned that part of their business. None of them has abandoned any passenger trains, but the Cincinnati, George town and Portsmouth railway has been compelled to employ ferry boats and tow boats to take the goods as far as the eastern suburb of Columbia, east of Cincinnati. Street railways were compelled to make four different transfers in the east end of Cincinnati today with their high motors. These high motors were not able to cross the river from the west side of Mill Creek Valley, and especially in Cumminville and Riverdale. Three churches in Cincinnati are surrounded by water, and as many school buildings, but these three schools were abandoned. A carnival estimate today placed the number of men thrown out of employment in Cincinnati by the flood at 2,800 and about half as many in Covington and Newport, Ky.

At Ironton it was reported that 1,500 men had been thrown out of employment. Similar conditions exist at Cadetsburg, Portsmouth and Huntington. An estimate has been made at Huntington that 2,000 families are homeless in the southern part of West Virginia and 8,000 men idle, and that the loss by food in that part of the state will exceed a million dollars.

At Ripley and New Richmond, up the river from Cincinnati, and other towns in those districts the conditions are reported tonight as very serious as the smaller places are all under water and have not the means of relief of larger cities.

At Maysville, Ky., sixty miles up the river, a stationary stage of 245 feet was reached today and it began falling at 7 o'clock tonight. At Aberdeen, Ohio, across the river from Maysville, it will take several weeks to repair the residences, but the people are preparing to re-occupy them. Above these cities scenes of desolation and ruin are reported everywhere as the water recedes. At Madison, Ind., 48 miles below Cincinnati, a stage of 46 feet at 6 o'clock tonight covered Front street, and 22 feet is anticipated. This will put the water into the first floors of the National and Western hotels and into the large Barker tobacco works. The hotels and other property across the river in Union, Ky., are flooded.

Franksville, Ind., April 25.—The river here at 7 o'clock tonight was 25 feet and rising an inch an hour. It is estimated that farmers between here and Paducah, Ky., will lose 20,000 bushels of corn. The water has begun to get into the cellars of the business houses. Thousands of logs are coming out of Green river, ten miles north of here. The lumber men will lose heavily.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS

He Sees Where England Isn't Getting a Square Deal.

London, April 25.—Sir Christopher Furness, head of the Furness line of steamers, has drawn the attention of the British board of trade to the anomaly in the fact that tonnage dues are charged in the case of British vessels entering American ports, while Dutch and Danish vessels enter free.

He desires the government to make representations on the subject to the United States. It is expected that Gerald Balfour, president of the board of trade, will make a statement on the subject in the house of commons next week.

STEAD SEES TROUBLE

England and the United States Will Have War.

London, April 25.—William T. Stead, in an interview with the Daily Mail yesterday said: "The Boers are calculating upon England's becoming embroiled with Russia or upon some other international complication. If I am not mistaken we are on the verge of a storm across the Atlantic that will result either in a peaceful solution. When the United States congress meets the Clayton-Bulwer treaty will be torn into shreds and hung in our faces. We shall have to choose between fighting and selling humbly to the Boers."

MR. CONGER AT FRISCO

Minister to China Lands on His Native Shores.

INTERVIEWED ON POLITICS

Will Accept Governorship of Iowa If He Is Asked.

HE HASN'T MUCH TO SAY

Concerning Inside Facts in Chinese Troubles.

San Francisco, April 25.—John H. Conger, United States minister to China, accompanied by his wife, daughter and Miss Phares, arrived from China this afternoon on the steamer Nippon Maru. Owing to quarantine regulations and the necessity of giving personal supervision to the landing of his baggage, Mr. Conger did not reach his hotel until 8 o'clock in the evening. Mr. Conger's arrival was awaited with considerable interest not only on account of his position in China but from a political standpoint. There was a general desire to know what position Mr. Conger would assume with reference to the coming gubernatorial nomination in Iowa. To a representative of the Associated Press, Mr. Conger was asked if he would accept the nomination on the gubernatorial matter said: "I don't wish to make any public declaration at this time. I have not yet had time to read the correspondence which has met me here. So far as I am at present advised I see no reason to change my position as expressed about two months ago, before I left China. I received two telegrams from the United States. One asked me if I were a candidate for governor. I answered: 'I am not.' The other telegram asked whether I would accept the nomination if I received it. I answered that I would accept it if the nomination came to me, but that I was in no sense a candidate. I don't care to nor will I say anything further in the matter until I reach Des Moines. I don't know what the situation in Iowa is and don't care to say anything definite until I am fully advised. My present intention is to return to Iowa to return to China and finish my work."

Touching events in China, Mr. Conger turned interviewer and was particularly anxious to know what had been done by the powers in the matter of indemnity. He was asked for his opinion as to the amount of indemnity China could pay. "Three hundred million dollars," he replied, accompanying his answer by the statement that it would be necessary for the government to practice economy. The time of payment, too, should be extended over a long term of years. Concerning events in China, Mr. Conger says that there was nothing new to be said in that direction as everything that had happened had been told fully together with many things that never occurred. Tales of brutality had, he thought, been exaggerated. Of course there were cases of outrage by individual soldiers which were not sanctioned by officers. These were but incidents of war which found some palliation in the fact that the Chinese had killed 6,000 native Christians and one hundred Europeans.

In regard to his future plans, Mr. Conger said he would remain in this city until Saturday morning when he would leave for his home in Des Moines, Iowa. At the expiration of his sixty days' leave of absence he intended to return to China. He would go back unless if anything important should come up.

When told that it was planned by the citizens of Des Moines to give him a public reception, he said that although he did not care for public demonstrations he would accept a reception at Des Moines. He belonged to the people of Iowa had always been kind to him, giving him everything he asked for, refusing him nothing, in return he had been compelled often to refuse the people of Iowa favors.

HOBSON AND CERVERA

Old Enemies Will Meet as Friends

Washington, April 25.—Naval Constructor Hobson, the hero of the Merrimack exploit in Santiago harbor, has decided to accept the invitation extended him some months ago to visit Admiral Cervera at LaOla. The statement is made by a citizen of Alabama, from which state Hobson said: "It is not likely that Mr. Hobson will visit Spain till the fall. He has been detailed for special work at the Buffalo exposition, which will require his presence until then."

Admiral Cervera, as is well known, escorted Hobson to the United States and the admiral is mutual. Hobson has often spoken in high terms of the character and conduct of the admiral, who in turn gave full praise to the American's daring.

The sinking of the Merrimack was regarded for a long time as having sealed the fate of the admiral. The war on the sea, however, which Admiral Cervera described as a "rat in a trap," was maintained until Cervera made his bold dash.

Roberts Held for Manslaughter.

London, April 25.—Jack Roberts, who was gassed against Billy Smith in the night before the National Sporting club Monday that resulted in Smith's death, and Nottingham, manager of the club, is together with the referee, time keeper and four seconds, were arraigned in the New street police court today on the charge of manslaughter. The magistrate remanded the accused on their own recognizances in 10 pounds each.

High Price for Quakers.

Beaumont, Texas, April 25.—The fine plantation of Virginia Stone, on Illinois street's bayou, four miles southwest of the Lake Charles, has been sold for \$80,000 cash to Wright, Blodgett and Co., of Saginaw, Mich. The daily well water of the Stone plantation has been purchased by Dr. J. H. Wood and others at Chicago for \$25,000.

Will Visit Imperial Tombs.

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